

Caltrans Update

Tulare County Association of Governments

CALTRANS MISSION:

Provide a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system to enhance California's economy and livability



California Continues to Climb in Ranking of Bike-friendly States

California continued its climb up the ranks of bike-friendly states, moving up to 8th in the nation according to the annual list compiled by the League of American Bicyclists.

With the release of its 2015 rankings, the League's assessment of California shows continued improvement for the Golden State, which was rated at 9th and 19th in 2014 and 2013, respectively. Ratings were based on overall scores added up from five categories: legislation/enforcement, policies/programs, infrastructure/funding, education/encouragement and evaluation/planning.

The rankings come on the heels of a multi-tiered effort by Caltrans to increase options for bicyclists as part of its approach to multimodal transportation.

"Bicycling is fast becoming a key component of California's transportation system, and we'll continue to make improvements to keep it accessible and safe for the millions of cyclists that use it every day," said Caltrans Director Malcolm Dougherty. "These rankings reflect our continued commitment to improve our cycling facilities and encourage active transportation."

In its recently released Strategic Plan, Caltrans included a goal of tripling the frequency of cycling. Caltrans also will add bike-friendly features to streets as part of its Complete Streets Implementation Action Plan.

2014 was a benchmark year for California and bicyclists, as well. The California Transportation Commission allocated more than \$360 million for locally administered Active Transportation Program (ATP) projects, with 2015 ATP grants expected to total even more in direct funding for local projects. In 2014, Caltrans also officially endorsed the street design guidelines of the North American City Transportation Official, which includes augmented features for bicyclists and pedestrians.

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CALTRANS AWARDS \$9.8 MILLION TO LOCAL CITIES AND AGENCIES TO SUPPORT THEIR SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING EFFORTS

Caltrans has awarded \$9.8 million in Sustainable Transportation Planning Grants to support cities, counties, agencies and transit operators in their efforts to integrate transit, bicycling and walking into their local transportation plans.

These grants could include planning for mobility, accessibility and connectivity of multi-modal options such as light rail, bus service, biking or walking. Of these grants, \$1.5 million will fund partnership efforts to solve statewide or interregional transportation issues in the state highway system.

"At Caltrans, we are supporting sustainability at every stage, from planning to project construction to funding for bike and walking paths," said Director Malcolm Dougherty. "Together, this funding will lead to more livable and economically vibrant communities across California."

This comes after the Federal Railroad Administration awarded Caltrans more than \$5 million to expand passenger rail planning efforts for its popular Pacific Surfliner route in San Diego County, and to upgrade existing Amtrak service in Riverside County.

Sustainable transportation planning projects that will be funded by this grant identify and address areas that lack viable transit or multimodal options, actively engage stakeholder collaboration and public engagement in their planning efforts, and ultimately help Caltrans achieve its mission of providing a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system to enhance California's economy and livability.

These grants may lead to active transportation projects that encourage biking and walking. Last year, the California Transportation Commission allocated more than \$360 million for locally administered Active Transportation Program projects.

Grant recipients include cities, counties, Native American tribal governments, metropolitan and regional transportation agencies and transit agencies. The grants were awarded in April, pending budget approval.

Grant recipients located in Caltrans District 6 are listed in the table on the next page.

For a complete list of grant recipients, visit <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/documents/AwardList.pdf>.

CALTRANS AWARDS \$9.8 MILLION TO LOCAL CITIES AND AGENCIES TO SUPPORT THEIR SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING EFFORTS, CONT.

Grant Type	Grantee Sub-recipient	County	Project Title	Project Description
Sustainable Communities	City of Coalinga	Fresno	Coalinga Citywide Vehicular Traffic Calming and Safety Enhancement Plan	This planning project is to develop a Citywide Vehicular Traffic Calming and Safety Enhancement Plan. The plan will address challenging conditions such as: excessive speeds due to the presence of two state highways that bisect the city; irregular intersections; and, accident prone areas. The proposed plan will include data collection and analysis, identification of the most cost effective countermeasures, community input, and development of a prioritized implementation plan. The plan will be a critical first step in helping Coalinga prepare for projected growth and creating a safer, multi-modal, transportation system.
Sustainable Communities	Kings County	Kings	Smart Growth State Route 41 Corridor Improvement Plan	The planning project will study alternatives for improving traffic flow, safety, capacity, and multi-modal travel. State Route (SR) 41, at the Interstate 5 interchange, is an important logistics hub and truck transfer station because of its location halfway between Los Angeles and San Francisco. At the project area, the SR 41 corridor bisects Kettleman City, a small, severely disadvantaged unincorporated community. The current infrastructure is inadequate for existing truck transfer activity, tourist travel to the Central Coast, and future growth. Community input will be key to the planning process.
Sustainable Communities	Tulare County Association of Governments	Tulare	Bike and Stride Outreach Program	The Bike and Stride program aims to evaluate, coordinate, and enhance our existing bike and pedestrian outreach efforts to groups that are not normally associated with our current outreach. This program will continue to enhance the success of our existing outreach in the county with our local partners, public, and transit providers. This program would better serve our residents, ensuring that future transportation investments would better reflect the needs of the county.
Sustainable Communities	Tule River Tribe	Tulare	A Comprehensive Master Plan for Tule River Native Community	The Tribe will further its long range commitment to land stewardship and community development by creating a vision and implementation plan to allow for long-term natural resource management, economic development, and sustainable growth, while maintaining its role as the Native American cultural leader for tribes throughout the Central San Joaquin Valley. The Tribe, in collaboration with a selected community planning consultant, will prepare a sustainable transportation plan and a GIS mapping system for the entire study area. This first ever plan will look to support the historical and cultural assets while setting the stage for population and employment growth well into the future. The master plan will include an assessment of existing roadways, safety elements and alternative access roads.

NEARLY \$223 MILLION IN NEW TRANSPORTATION FUNDING APPROVED FOR STATE'S TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

Continuing the push to rebuild and maintain California's infrastructure, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) has allocated nearly \$223 million to 109 transportation projects that will alleviate traffic delays, repair aging roads and bridges and encourage bicycling and walking.

Thirty eight biking and pedestrian projects throughout the state will receive \$10.3 million in allocations from the Active Transportation Program.

"Allocations like those made today help Caltrans continue to invest in, maintain and modernize California's transportation system," said Caltrans Director Malcolm Dougherty.

"Each of these projects is an opportunity to improve safety, access and mobility for all travelers in California, whether you choose to travel via car, bike or transit."

Active transportation projects funded include:

Fresno: \$40,000; to Fresno County COG to construct new ADA Path on Grove and Jensen Avenue from Ninth Street to Cedar Avenue that will include new and retrofitting curbs/ramps.

Fresno: \$32,000; to Fresno County COG to install a new sidewalk along Dunlap Road from Dunlap Elementary to Dunlap Leadership Academy including the installation of an in-pavement crosswalk lighting system.

Fresno: \$30,000; to Fresno County COG to install a new walkway on the north side of Mt. Whitney Avenue from Grantland Avenue to Garfield Avenue to provide pedestrians walking and/or biking along Mt. Whitney a safe dedicated path.

Fresno: \$40,000; to Fresno County COG to construct an ADA compliant path for students who walk on Hazel Avenue to Mt. Whitney Avenue to Stathe Avenue.

City of Kerman: \$26,000; to Fresno County COG to construct Pedestrian Safety Improvements at various locations including new curb and gutter, sidewalks and curb ramps.

City of Mendota: \$25,000; to Fresno County COG to construct Mendota Elementary Pedestrian Improvements to improve pedestrian safety and facilities at high traffic locations near the new Mendota Elementary School.

The newly allocated funding also includes \$167.2 million from the State Highway Operation and Protection Program for 41 projects that will maintain and preserve the investment in the state highway system and its supporting infrastructure. These capital improvements consist of projects covering maintenance, pavement repair and rehabilitation, safety improvements and upgrades to bridges throughout the state.

"Preventative maintenance is the most cost-effective means of protecting the state's infrastructure investment," continued Director Dougherty. "We adopted a 'fix it first' strategy because for every \$1 spent

NEARLY \$223 MILLION IN NEW TRANSPORTATION FUNDING APPROVED FOR STATE'S TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM , CONTINUED

on preventative maintenance, we can save taxpayers up to \$14 in monies that would have been spent on more expensive and extensive repairs.”

The allocations also include \$2.2 million from Proposition 1B, a transportation bond approved by voters in 2006. To date, more than \$18 billion in Proposition 1B funds have been put to work statewide for transportation purposes.

The remaining \$43 million in allocations came from various state and federal transportation accounts.

Among the projects that received funding allocations today were:

Fresno: \$2.2 million; in Fresno, Kings, and Tulare Counties on Routes 5, 41, 168, 180 and 198 at various locations which will replace the existing overhead signs and roadside signs to improve highway efficiency and safety for vehicle traffic.

Fresno: \$362,000; in Fresno, Kern, Madera and Tulare counties at various intersections in order to upgrade signalized intersections to include Accessible Pedestrian System (APS) push buttons and countdown pedestrian heads to reduce the number and severity of collisions.

Bakersfield: \$8 million; repair joint seals, paint steel elements and upgrade/reconstruct guardrails at four bridges in Bakersfield on State Route 204 to extend the bridge service life.

Bakersfield: \$4.9 million; overlay 31.2 miles of State Route 58 near Boron from west of Boron overcrossing to the San Bernardino County line with rubberized hot mix asphalt, install shoulder backing and replacement of guardrail at identified location to extend pavement service life and improve ride safety and quality.

Bakersfield: \$6.8 million; on State Route 119, near Dustin Acres, From Elk Hills Road to Tupman Road construct truck climbing lanes to reduce congestion and improve highway operations and mobility.

Bakersfield: \$6.1 million; on State Route 395 near Johannesburg, from the San Bernardino County line to Route 178; rehabilitate 49.5 lane miles of pavement by overlaying rubberized hot mix asphalt on the existing pavement to extend pavement service life and improve ride quality.

Bakersfield: \$1.9 million; on Routes 5, 58, 99, and 178 at various locations; replace the existing overhead and roadside sign panels with high retro-reflective sheeting to improve highway efficiency and safety for vehicle traffic.

*For more information about all projects that received allocations, please see:
http://dot.ca.gov/dist6/pressrelease/2015/ctc_may_projects.pdf*

CALTRANS RELEASES PLANS DETAILING CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING SHORTFALLS FACING CALIFORNIA'S HIGHWAY SYSTEM

According to projections detailed in plans released May 8, 2015, Caltrans will need approximately \$80 billion over the next ten years to address current and future needs of the state highway system—a projected funding shortfall of nearly \$60 billion with available revenue.

The 2015 Ten-Year State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) Plan outlines a strategy for improving roads, addressing major rehabilitation work on the state highway system and supporting Caltrans' sustainability goal through projects that bring long-lasting and smart mobility improvements. The plan identifies approximately \$8 billion annually needed to fund these necessary improvements and preventative maintenance activities over the next ten years. However, in light of a shortfall of approximately \$5.7 billion per year in funding, the plan warns that the state highway system will deteriorate and necessitate much more expensive remedies in the future.

"This funding shortfall presents a serious challenge to Caltrans and this state's transportation system," said Caltrans Director Malcolm Dougherty. "At Caltrans, we have a 'fix it first' mentality, putting transportation dollars where they can be most cost-effective: on preventative maintenance to our existing infrastructure. Our maintenance dollars can only go so far, however, and California is facing much more expensive repairs to its infrastructure in the future due to a growing backlog of necessary repairs.

Excise taxes on gasoline and diesel fuel are the primary revenue source for Caltrans, funding the maintenance and operation of the state highway system as well as the administration of the department. These revenues are declining as a result of reduced fuel consumption due to more energy-efficient vehicles and increased alternative fuel use. California is currently evaluating funding alternatives which may include increasing the gas tax or registration fees, or switching to a mileage-based fee structure.

The State Highway Operation and Protection Program primarily funds rehabilitation projects and capital improvements along the state highway system that do not add capacity to the system. Projects largely involve pavement and structure/bridge rehabilitation, but also encompass safety and some types of mobility improvements as well as emergency repair. The SHOPP is based on a ten-year plan (today's released document) that identifies performance goal-based needs over a ten-year period, with the plan updated every two years.

Caltrans' Maintenance Program also preserves California's transportation infrastructure through preventative maintenance and repair of the state highway system. Proper maintenance, as detailed in the 2015 Five-Year Maintenance Plan (also released today), can reduce the amount of the more expensive rehabilitation work done by the SHOPP.

Caltrans constructs, operates and maintains more than 50,000 lane miles of the State Highway System, the core of California's complex, multi-modal transportation system. This includes more than 13,000 bridges and structures, 30,000 acres of roadside landscaping, 205,000 culverts and drainage facilities and 87 roadside rest areas. The department's transportation infrastructure also includes maintenance stations, equipment shops, traffic management centers, transportation materials laboratories and testing facilities and office buildings. Much of this system is over half a century old, built in the 1950s through early 1970s, to serve California's growing population and expanding economy.

The 2015 Ten-Year SHOPP Plan can be accessed at http://www.dot.ca.gov/docs/2015_Ten-Year_SHOPP.pdf and the 2015 Five-Year Maintenance Plan at http://www.dot.ca.gov/docs/2015_Five-Year_Maintenance_Plan.pdf.

UPDATE ON TULARE COUNTY PROJECTS

Signal Countdown/ Accessible Pedestrian Signals: Install signal countdown heads/ accessible pedestrian signs in Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera and Tulare at various locations. Funding: SHOPP. Ready to advertise June 2015; award contract late summer 2015. Curt Hatton, Project Manager, (559) 243-3445.

California Tiger Salamander Mitigation Bank: Develop a mitigation bank for the California Tiger Salamander in Districts 6 and 10 that will serve as mitigation for future Caltrans projects in various counties and locations. Funding: SHOPP. PID Initiated February 2015. Judy Aguilar-Luna, Project Manager, (559) 243-3457.

Ker-Kin-Tul Drought Relief: Repair irrigation systems and replace booster pumps at various locations in Kern Kings, and Tulare Counties. Funding: SHOPP. In construction. Victor Shaw, Project Manager, (559) 243-3441.

Fre-Tul Sign Panel Upgrade: Upgrade sign panels in Fresno County on Routes 41, 168, 180, and in Tulare County on Route 198. Funding: SHOPP. Funding was approved at the May CTC hear-

ing. Emad Abi-Rached, Project Manager, (559) 243-3460.

Terra Bella Expressway Segment 1: Widen SR 65 from a 2-lane conventional highway to a 4-lane expressway from Avenue 120 to the SR 190/65 separation, south of the City of Porterville. Funding: RIP, TCRP, Measure. Advertise winter 2015; begin construction spring 2016. Jim Bane, Project Manager, (559) 243-3469.

Porterville to Cairns Corner CAPM: Pavement preservation (CAPM) on SR 65 in and near Porterville from the Morton Avenue undercrossing to SR 137 (Road 196). Funding: SHOPP. Ready to list late 2016. Judy Aguilar-Luna, Project Manager, (559) 243-3457.

Tulare Madera VDS: Install Vehicle Detection systems on SR 99 in Fresno County from PM 18.7 to PM 22.5; in Tulare County from PM 0.1 to PM 28.0; in Madera County from PM 16.4 to PM 26.5. Funding: Minor A. Ready to List February 2016; advertise April 2016; award contract summer 2016. Jeannie Wiley, Project Manager, (559) 243-8051.

Elk Bayou 2R: Overlay on SR 99 south of the City of Tulare between Elk Bayou Bridge and the Paige Road overcrossing. Funding: SHOPP. In construction. Judy Aguilar-Luna, Project Manager, (559) 243-3457.

Prosperity to Caldwell - South Segment: Widen SR 99 in the City of Tulare from a 4-lane freeway to a six lane freeway between Prosperity Avenue to south of the Avenue 280 overcrossing. Funding: RIP, IIP. Ready to list late 2016; advertise early 2017. Jim Bane, Project Manager, (559) 243-3469.

Cartmill Interchange: On SR 99. Caltrans providing oversight for City of Tulare Measure R funded project. State Route 99 Bond funds are also funding this project. Project is in construction; complete construction late November 2015. Curt Hatton, Project Manager, (559) 243-3445.

Caldwell - Middle Segment: Widen SR 99 near the City of Visalia from a 4-lane freeway to a six lane freeway between south of the Avenue 280 overcrossing to south of the West Visalia overhead. Funding: RIP, IIP. Ready to list spring 2015; advertise Au-

UPDATE ON TULARE COUNTY PROJECTS, CONTINUED

gust 2015. Jim Bane, Project Manager, (559) 243-3469.

Tulare to Goshen North Segment 6-Lane: On SR 99 near the community of Goshen. Funding Prop 1B Bond money. Visalia overhead to N Goshen overhead. Project is currently in construction. Construction is expected to be finished in summer 2015. Steven Milton, Project Manager, (559) 243-3451.

Betty Drive Interchange: Reconstruct the Betty Drive interchange on SR 99 in the community of Goshen. Caltrans proceeding with Alternative No 4 as the preferred alternative. Funding: RIP, IIP, Measure, local, developer. Ready to list spring 2016; project will advertise summer 2016. Steven Milton, Project Manager, (559) 243-3451.

Goshen to Kingsburg 6-Lane. Widen SR 99 in and near the City of Kingsburg between the North Goshen overhead to the SR 99/SR 201 interchange. Funding: Prop 1B Bond. Work continues on median barrier and pavement. At the Kings River, traffic has shifted again to perform roadway replacement. Work continues in the

median north and south of the bridge. Portions of the project have been open to traffic upon completion of ongoing final paving. Jim Bane, Project Manager, (559) 243-3469.

Goshen to Kingsburg Replacement Planting: Replacement and mitigation planting near the City of Kingsburg on SR 99 at various locations from south of the SR 99/Merritt Drive interchange to north of the Bethel Avenue overcrossing. Funding: Prop 1B Bond. Plantings on hold due to drought. Anticipated construction completion 2016. Jim Bane, Project Manager, (559) 243-3469.

Route 137 from J St to Kern Ave CAPM: Remove and replace asphalt concert and ditches on SR 137 in the City of Tulare from J Street to Kern Avenue. Funding: Minor A. Project is currently advertising; start construction this summer. Curt Hatton, Project Manager, (559) 243-3445.

State Route 190 Lairds Rehab: AC overlay, shoulder widening, left-turn channelization, and utility relocation on SR 190 near the community of Tipton between the SR 99/SR 190 separation to west of Road 184. Funding:

SHOPP. Ready to list spring 2016. Steven Milton, Project Manager, (559) 243-3451.

Lairds Corner Roundabout: Improvements at the intersection of SR 190 and Bliss Lane (Road 152) near the community of Tipton. Funding: SHOPP. Ready to list spring 2016. Steven Milton, Project Manager, (559) 243-3451.

Reservation Road Roundabout: Improvements at the intersection of SR 190 and Road 284 near the City of Porterville. Funding: SHOPP. Project advertised May 11, 2015 and bids will open June 24, 2015. Victor Shaw, Project Manager, (559) 243-3441.

Plaza Landscape: Replacement planting on SR 198 in the City of Visalia between SR 99 to Plaza Drive and on Plaza Drive from Airport Drive to Goshen Avenue. Funding: STIP. Ready to list achieved July 2014; project has been awarded and construction will begin in summer 2015 to be consistent with drought plans. Curt Hatton, Project Manager, (559) 243-3445.

Vista Avenue POC: ADA upgrades in the City of Visalia

UPDATE ON TULARE COUNTY PROJECTS, CONTINUED

on SR 198 at the Vista Avenue pedestrian overcrossing. Funding: SHOPP ADA. Bids opened November 20, 2014; began construction December 2014. Curt Hatton, Project Manager, (559) 243-3445.

Farmersville Roundabout 1: Intersection improvement on SR 198 at Farmersville Boulevard and Noble Avenue in the City of Farmersville. Funding: Local. Project is currently being advertised; start construction summer 2015. Curt Hatton, Project Manager, (559) 243-3445.

Farmersville Roundabout 2: Intersection improvement on SR 198 eastbound ramps at Noble Avenue in the City of Farmersville. Funding: Local. Project is currently being advertised; begin construction summer 2015. Curt Hatton, Project Manager, (559) 243-3445.

Farmersville Bridge Hit: Repair bridge girders on SR 198 in Tulare County near Farmersville at the County Road 164 undercrossing. Funding: SHOPP. Begin construction summer 2015. Curt Hatton, Project Manager, (559) 243-3445.

Houston Avenue Landscape: Install landscaping on SR 216 in the City of Visalia from Lovers Lane to east of Comstock Street. Funding: STIP. Project advertised May 4, 2015 and bids will open May 28, 2015. Victor Shaw, Project Manager, (559) 243-3441.

Houston Avenue: Widen and realign Houston Avenue (SR 216) in the City of Visalia from Lovers Lane to McAuliff Street. Funding: RIP. Construction complete. Victor Shaw, Project Manager, (559) 243-3441.

South Valencia Blvd ADA: Improve pedestrian access and add ADA curb ramps on SR 254 between Deltha Avenue to Bravo Avenue near the City of Woodlake. Funding: Minor A. Ready to List fall 2016; advertise early 2017. Emad Abi-Rached, Project Manager, (559) 243-3460.

Woodlake Intersection Improvement: Caltrans oversight of a local roundabout project at the intersection of SR 216 and SR 245 in the City of Woodlake. Funding: Measure, local and federal. In construction. Emad Abi-Rached, Project Manager, (559) 243-3460.

Woodlake Streetscape: Streetscape project on SR 245 in the City of Woodlake from Antelope Avenue to just north of Antelope Avenue. Funding: STIP, TE. Construction complete. Emad Abi-Rached, Project Manager, (559) 243-3460.

Woodlake Streetscape 4: Streetscape project on SR 245 in the City of Woodlake. Funding: Local and federal. In construction. Emad Abi-Rached, Project Manager, (559) 243-3460.

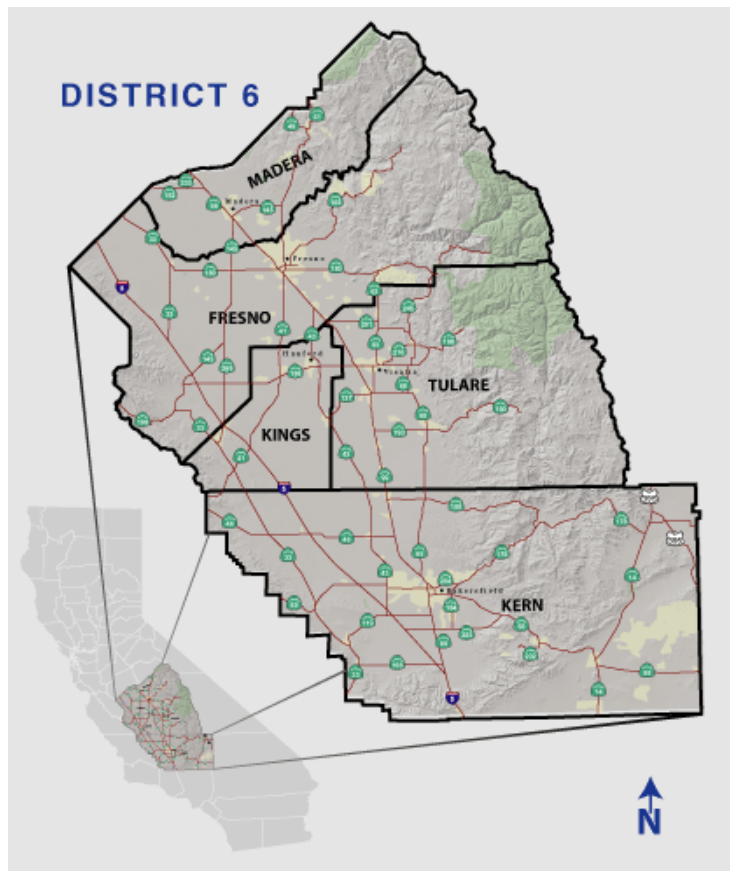
Cottonwood Creek Repair: Construct rock slope protection on SR 245 about 10 miles south of Badger at Cottonwood Creek. Funding: SHOPP. Construction complete. Judy Aguilar-Luna, Project Manager, (559) 243-3457.



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District 6*

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The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 6 is headquartered in Fresno. This geographically diverse district is the second largest of the 12 Districts statewide, stretching from the southernmost part of Yosemite National Park in the north to the Mojave Desert. It includes Madera, Fresno, Tulare, Kings and Kern counties. Interstate 5 and State Route 99 run the length of District 6, serving as the main north-south arteries for not just the Central Valley, but for the entire state as well.



Visit District 6 on the web at www.dot.ca.gov/dist6/